

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

(By Delegates M. Poling, Anderson, Andes, Barill, Barker, Border,
Butcher, D. Campbell, T. Campbell, Cann, Canterbury, Caputo,
Craig, Crosier, Doyle, Ennis, Ferns, Ferro, Fleischauer, Fragale,
Frazier, Givens, Guthrie, Hall, Hatfield, Hunt, Iaquina, Jones,
Kominar, Kump, Lawrence, Mahan, Manchin, Manypenny, Marshall,
Martin, Michael, Miley, Moore, Morgan, Moye, Nelson, Paxton,
Perdue, Perry, Pethtel, L. Phillips, R. Phillips, Pino, D.
Poling, Poore, Reynolds, Rodighiero, Shaver, Sigler, Skaff,
Smith, Staggers, Stephens, Storch, Stowers, Swartzmiller,
Talbott, Varner, Walker, White and Williams)

Requesting that bridge number 01-10-9.94 on County Route 10 near
Moatsville in Barbour County, West Virginia be named the
"James A. Wright Memorial Bridge."

WHEREAS, James A. Wright was born on July 7, 1924 in
Moatsville, West Virginia to Scott Albert and Cora Virginia Janes
Wright; and

WHEREAS, James A. Wright married Geraldine Mae Freeman Wright
and together they raised twelve children, had twenty-four
grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, James A. Wright attended the Riverdale School, a one
room schoolhouse in Moatsville and later received his GED at

1 Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi; and

2 WHEREAS, James A. Wright began his working career in a coal
3 mine near Moatsville and worked in later years as a mechanic, truck
4 driver and appliance repairman and surveyed homes for repairs; and

5 WHEREAS, James A. Wright was part of three generations of
6 Wrights who lived in close proximity of the bridge and kept the
7 area clean of trash and debris; and

8 WHEREAS, James A. Wright and members of his family helped make
9 a scenic area on the river near the bridge a favorite swimming
10 locale that served as a community meeting place; and

11 WHEREAS, The original bridge was a covered bridge that was
12 destroyed in 1910 by a flood. A ferry was used to cross the Tygart
13 Valley River during the construction of a new bridge that was
14 completed in 1912; and

15 WHEREAS, The B&O Railroad Station was located at the bridge.
16 The area also included a merchant store, barber shop, blacksmith
17 shop, planing mill, grist mill, coal tipple, post office, a church
18 and several nice homes. One of these homes had a bathroom and
19 running water which no one else had. The train hauled passengers as
20 well as coal cars. Local people would commute to sell goods and
21 services, including milk, cream, butter, nuts and crates of
22 chickens; and

23 WHEREAS, James A. Wright knew the bridge's history and its
24 importance to economic development of the area and loved to share
25 his vast knowledge with visitors to the area; and

1 WHEREAS, The Corps of Engineers continue today to frequent the
2 area for periodic checks on the property. They refer to James A.
3 Wright as a landmark since he knew the history surrounding the
4 bridge area and lived his life in Moatsville for almost eighty
5 years; and

6 WHEREAS, James A. Wright passed away at his home on August 18,
7 2004 at the age of eighty and was laid to rest at the Tacy
8 Cemetery; therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

10 That the Division of Highways is hereby requested to name
11 bridge number 01-10-9.94 on County Route 10 near Moatsville in
12 Barbour County, West Virginia the "James A. Wright Memorial
13 Bridge"; and, be it

14 *Further Resolved,* That the Commissioner of the Division of
15 Highways is hereby requested to erect signs at both ends of the
16 bridge containing bold and prominent letters proclaiming the bridge
17 the "James A. Wright Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
19 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of
20 the Division of Highways, to his loving wife of sixty years,
21 Geraldine, who continues to live in the family home, and to his
22 surviving children, Judie Frey, Rachel Marteny, Murl Wright, Susie
23 Bolyard, Charlotte Haddix, Margaret Hathaway, Dian Mitchell, Sharon
24 Ball, Patricia Poe, Jim Wright and Rickey Wright.